

**FRANKLIN-McKINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
JANUARY 8, 2025, SIXTH SCAC MEETING
MINUTES**

MEETING NORMS

- No interruptions
- Meeting Chair will call upon raised hands
- Keep comments concise
- Be open minded
- Assume best intention
- Use facts, not emotion
- Stay on track with the agenda
- Consider the needs of all students in the District

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.

The Committee Chair calls the meeting into order at 6:05 PM.
Review of the agenda.

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.01 Review of Meeting Minutes Review

There are no comments.
Meeting norms are read by the Committee Chair.

2.02 Middle School Grade Configurations (15 minutes) Information/Discussion

Superintendent Cruz reviews slides on Middle School Configuration with the additions of the data requested by the Committee from the December 4, 2024 meeting. It is noted that the slides from the December 4, 2024 meeting were updated and have already been posted on the district website. The slides that were added/edited after the December 4, 2024 meeting have annotations in red indicating they were subsequently added/edited, and were being shared at this meeting for full transparency.

No questions from the Committee.

2.03 Breakout Session (30 minutes) Information/Discussion

The Committee Chair presented data for discussion regarding capacity and enrollment, facilities, transportation, and middle school configurations that she prepared for the Committee based on prior data discussed at the Committee meetings. The Committee Chair noted that in regards to capacity, it is important to look at which schools are large enough to take on more students after school closures. The capacity data presented was sorted from highest to lowest enrollment, and color coded based on which schools ranked highest and lowest for enrollment, capacity, and utilization. The facilities data was sorted based on the Office of Public School Construction FIT ranking, then color coded based on which schools ranked highest and lowest based on year built, estimated total projects cost, and total cost of master plan. The transportation data was sorted from lowest to highest general education bussed students, with color coding based on

other criteria. The middle school reconfiguration data showed potential enrollments were Sylvandale and Brides to reconfigure as grades 6-8; this data was created by the Committee Chair based on January 8, 2025 enrollment. The Committee received a printed copy of the data presented by the Committee Chair.

The Committee Chair reminds the audience and the Committee that the Committee does not decide on which schools to close, but will propose a recommendation to the Board based on the criteria discussed. The Committee Chair notes that closures will certainly have an impact; while all schools and communities within the District are important, and the Committee is making recommendations based on what it believes will have the least overall impact. Examples of scenarios of students are mentioned and the number of general education and SDC students.

Harold Freiman, of Lozano Smith, notes that the committee will not be creating a final recommendation at this meeting, which will occur at the next meeting. Before the next meeting, the committee will receive a draft report reviewed by the committee's officers; it will include a blank for the committee recommendations, which will be filled in at the next meeting. Mr. Freiman introduces the breakout sessions and the breakout group report forms. The schools recommended for closure and non-closure do not need to be ranked, but the groups are free to rank them if they would like. If there is disagreement within the group, that can be noted. The report form includes a section to indicate which schools should stay as TK-8, on the assumption based on prior Committee input that grade 6 would otherwise move to the middle schools. The reports are intended as a tool to gather the group's thoughts in regards to which schools to close and reconfiguration.

Mr. Freiman reminds the committee of nine criteria from the California Department of Education that have been discussed. The criteria are: Capacity, Student Demographics, Condition of School Facilities, Operating Costs, Special Programs of Schools, Transportation Needs, Aesthetics, Community/Environmental Factors, and Impact on Feeder Schools/Patterns. Mr. Freiman notes that each breakout group should consider these criteria when ranking schools. Not all criteria need to be weighed equally, and the ranking can be more qualitative than quantitative.

Mr. Freiman discusses five things to consider during breakout group session: the nine criteria; improvement of education opportunities and programs; the district's unique geography of being split into quadrants by major roads; cost savings; and equity, which can be defined broadly as undue impact on particular groups.

The committee is split into four groups of four.

Breakout groups discuss within their group for 30 minutes.

2.04 Breakout Group Reports and Discussion (60 minutes) Information/Discussion

Upon returning from the breakout session, Superintendent Cruz reiterates that the purpose of the committee is to put forth a recommendation to the Board and the Board will ultimately make the decision. It is noted that financially, the district has to consolidate schools to remain financially solvent. It is noted that if the district fails to take necessary actions, a third party will step in and make these decisions. Failing to close schools is not an option. School closure allows the district to continue serving students. It is a difficult but necessary step that the district must take. It is also noted that due to the number of speakers for public comments, public comments will be limited to 1 minute per speaker.

Each breakout group shares their report to the committee with a brief explanation of the rationale

Group 2 shares its report based on discussions from their breakout group:

The schools ranked highest for closure in, no particular order:

Los Arboles, due to capacity and geography

Ramblewood, due to capacity, geography, and feeder school pattern

Santee, due to geography, operating cost, and capacity

Dahl, due to operating cost, aesthetics, community impact, and geography

McKinley, due to operating costs, transportation and enrollment

The schools ranked the highest for non-closure, in no particular order:

Franklin, CCA, Windmill, Sylvandale, Lairon, Stonegate

Neutral: Meadows and Shirakawa

Schools to maintain as a TK-8: Stonegate and Windmill

Group 1 shares their report from the breakout group:

Schools to maintain as a TK-8 in no particular order:

Shirakawa

Windmill

Schools highest for closure, in no particular order:

Ramblewood based on safety concerns-asbestos, no room to expand, least amount of PK restrooms or least amount to take on preschool classrooms, least number of enrollment, least money currently invested, no current bonds invested, no current projects, one of smallest schools but with one of the highest operating cost, geographically can be easily consolidated with another school, and one of the highest cost to update.

Dahl based on having the least amount of money currently invested, no current bonds to invest, no current projects, least number of students coming from

charters, lowest test scores, surrounding schools (Franklin, Los Arboles, or Lairon) can hold more students, and students can be easily bussed to Franklin.

Stonegate due the least amount of space to add more students (Meadows, Windmill, Kennedy can take more), students can be easily transported to surrounding schools , (Meadows, Windmill, Kennedy), conditions and safety issues, and have the least amount of money spent to modernize.

Lairon and Los Arboles to combine, specifically Lairon due to low enrollments, the least amount of money invested, no current projects, \$27 M to modernize, they are close in proximity with Los Arboles going to Lairon, and Los Arboles has the least coming from charters.

Mckinley due to low enrollment, adjacent to another school district, least amount of space to take on more students, low FIT score, \$37 M to modernize, upcoming bonds but nothing in place so bonds can be moved.

Santee due to the least amount to hold more students in the cafeteria, capacity, low enrollment, least amount of bond money invested, high modernization cost, highest operating cost, least coming from charter, geographically within a cluster with Kennedy, Meadows, and Bridges.

Kennedy due to low enrollment, least space to take on more students, least amount of current bond and projects invested, high modernization need, highest utility cost, low test scores, and parking issues.

Schools for non-closure:

CCA, Franklin, Windmill, Shirakawa, Bridges, Sylvandale, Hellyer, and Meadows.

Lairon with a possible rename of Los Arboles.

Schools to maintain as TK-8: Shirakawa and Windmill.

It is expressed that Group 1 "love" the idea of K-5 and Bridges and Sylvandale as 6-8.

It is noted by a group member that the discussions on Dahl was divided equally within their breakout group.

Group 3

Schools ranked highest for closure are from highest to lowest with 5 definite recommendations:

1. Ramblewood due to enrollment, capacity, safety, and transportation.
2. Los Arboles due to enrollment, capacity, and cost to modernize.

3. Santee due to enrollment, capacity, and cost to modernize.
4. Dahl due to enrollment and certain capacity factors (parking), but not all capacity factors.
5. McKinley due to reasons mentioned above, especially the cost to modernize.
6. Bridges is also proposed for closure even with reconfiguration of 6-8 due to high modernization cost and low enrollment.

Schools proposed for non-closure:

CCA, Shirakawa, Franklin, Meadows, Stonegate, and Windmill. It is noted for Windmill to stay as a Dual Language program, but should not be a middle school due because it already lacks parking capacity for staff.

Schools to maintain as TK-8:

Shirakawa and Stonegate, with the need to add a TK to Shirakawa.

Group 4

Discussions within the group looked at the sites geographically when presenting their recommendations, and the recommendations for closure are tied to corresponding recommendations for nonclosure.

Los Arboles was ranked high on the list for closure only if consolidated with Lairon; Lairon is high on the list for non-closure if combined with Los Arboles.

Ramblewood was also ranked high on the list mainly due to capacity, transportation issues with not being able to bus students up the hill. If Ramblewood is closed, Hellyer would be high on the list for remaining open due to absorbing Ramblewood students.

McKinley based on enrollment and looking at general education and SDC enrollment and bussing students. Since due to the geography students would either need to be bussed in or bussed out, the lower enrollment at McKinley weighed in favor of bussing McKinley students to other schools within the district, as opposed to having to bus in a larger number of students to McKinley. Located at the north of the District, McKinley students would then need to attend Santee, Meadows, or Kennedy. It was noted that there was difficulty discussing Santee and Kennedy for closure.

Dahl is on the closure list by looking at its geographic location among other criteria previously discussed, as it is well positioned for students to shift to other schools when boundaries are readjusted.

Non Closure Discussions:

Group 4 discussed moving 6th graders to a 6-8 making the middle schools more comprehensive. With that, Bridges, Sylvandale, and CCA were high on the non-closure list.

It is noted that if looking at current and projected enrollments, it is recommended for Windmill be on the non-closure list and to be reconfigured as a K-5.

Franklin is high on the non-closure list due to the same reasons and the amount of money already spent to modernize the facility.

Meadows is on the non-closure list due having more than 300 in enrollment and being the third largest if it were a K-5 school.

The discussion on Santee and Kennedy for closure is noted as difficult and traffic concerns were discussed as a criteria for Santee to be higher on the closure list than Kennedy. The group discussed Santee as the most difficult to get to safely by VTA, walking, and bus. It is mentioned that the group did not have a clear decision on either Santee or Kennedy to be added on the closure list.

Recommendation for K-8:

Stonegate and Shirakawa with Shirakawa to include TK.

It is noted by a committee member of the asbestos in Ramblewood.

Mr. Freiman reviews the chart presented from the December 4th SCAC meeting indicating the number of criteria the sites fall under closure v. non closure. The chart was updated to reflect the number of nominations by each breakout group for closure versus nonclosure. It is noted that the earlier chart tallied the number of criteria where the committee had leaned in favor of closure or non-closure, whereas this chart is tallying how many breakout groups named a school as a candidate for closure versus nonclosure.

- Dahl: 4 groups for closure.
- Franklin: 4 groups for non closure.
- Hellyer: It is noted that there was not a lot of discussion on Hellyer but 3 groups listed Hellyer for non-closure, still not in red.
- Kennedy: 1 group for closure and 2 groups for non closure, remains neutral.
- Lairon: discussions on consolidation with Los Arboles, with 3 groups for non-closure of Lairon.
- Los Arboles: 4 groups for closure.
- McKinley: 4 groups for closure.
- Meadows: 3 groups for non-closure.
- Ramblewood: 4 groups for closure.
- Santee: 4 groups for closure.
- Shirakawa: 2 groups for non-closure and also discussed at TK-8. No recommendation from any groups for closure.
- Stonegate: 2 groups for non-closure.
- Windmill: 4 groups for non-closure.
- CCA: 3 groups for non closure.

- Bridges: 2 groups for non closure and 1 for closure.
- Sylvandale: 2 groups for non closure

It is noted that these recommendations are now based on the collective discussions and the criterias. From the group discussions, there are five schools strongly on the closure list. It is again noted that this is not the final list of recommendations to be presented to the Board, as those recommendations will be discussed and voted on in the next meeting

For the middle school configuration:

- Shirakawa: 3 groups recommended to keep as K-8, with 2 groups recommending the addition of TK.
- Stonegate: 3 groups recommended keeping as a TK-8
- Windmill: 2 schools were discussed as keeping TK-8.

A committee member brings to attention the closeness of Stonegate and Franklin and the ability for either one or both schools to absorb the neighborhood. The Superintendent notes that the boundaries will still need to be redrawn to determine which school sites would absorb which neighborhoods.

A committee member notes that their group did discuss Dahl students being absorbed by Stonegate or Franklin.

A committee member brings to attention not making schools disproportionate and more balanced.

Mr. Freiman notes a consistent trend regarding schools identified for closure from the previous meeting discussion and the refinements after discussions during the breakout groups.

3. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: January 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Committee Chair reiterates that due to the number of speakers, public comments will be limited to 1 minute per speaker.

Karen Orozco, Santee staff member, comments in support of non closure for Santee due to the large population of undocumented families, newcomers, and demographics leading to high needs. Ms. Orozco comments that closing Santee would be inequitable. Ms. Orozco raises the issue of deportation and Santee serves as a safe space for these families. Ms. Orozco also mentions transportation needs of the students of Santee, with students as young as second grade walking to school.

Adrian Sarellano, elementary teacher of Santee, comments to support non closure for Santee due to invested resources such as the Apple Connect Grant, the SEAL program for English learner students, connections with church groups, and it is one of the few schools invested in full time community liaison. It is the first school in the San Jose area to partner with "shop with a cop." Mr. Sarellano urges the committee to recommend for Santee to remain open.

Adreina Pardo comments in support of Kennedy for non-closure. Ms. Andy is a para educator and alumni of Kennedy.

Crystal Urbano, teacher of Dahl. Ms. Urbano notes Dahl as being a trauma skilled school and is named after a national hero, Captain Jason M. Dahl. Ms. Urbano urges the committee to recommend Dahl for non-closure, and states it would be traumatic for students of the school

Bill Heidrich, brother in law of Captain Jason M. Dahl, comments on the honor to the family of having the school named after Captain Dahl. Mr. Heidrich comments on Captain Dahl attending various FMSD schools who is now a national hero. He thanks the committee and superintendent and encourages them to do what is best for the district students, the taxpayers, and keeping the district solvent.

Maria Rodriguez, parent of Dahl, comments in support of non-closure of Dahl (comments in Spanish). Ms. Rodriguez mentions accidents on Capitol should students have to cross if Dahl were to close.

Edward Quiroz, teacher of Dahl, comments in support of non closure for Dahl. Dahl is a community grant school. With that grant they are able to offer the "Little Heroes" program, emotional and social support, and ELA programs. Mr. Quiroz states that closure would leave a hole in the community.

Stephanie Rocha, parent of Dahl and FMSD alumni, comments in support of non-closure of Dahl. Ms. Rocha notes that children feel safe at Dahl with continued support from teachers and staff. Ms. Rocha notes that Dahl is historically well known, including due to being named after Captain Dahl.

Adriana Rios, parent of Ramblewood, comments in support of non-closure of Ramblewood. Ms. Rios shares survey results sent out by parents to families if Ramblewood were to close, 94% responded disruption in their lives and 86% likelihood of moving students outside the district. Results were based on 84 responses.

Michelle Wong, parent of Ramblewood, comments to support non-closure of Ramblewood. Ms. Wong urges the committee not just to look at data but look at the community. Ms. Wong comments that students feel safe and secure at Ramblewood. Ms.

Wong also comments that the caring and loving environment at Ramblewood has led to distinguished school and ranks high in ELA and math.

Rick Sutherland, parent of Ramblewood, asks the committee if academic performance was discussed. Superintendent Cruz clarifies that the academic criteria was discussed amongst other criteria. Mr. Sutherland comments that as a parent, academic performance is very important. He comments on strong connections and relationships built at Ramblewood, and tax dollars that fund schools

Owen Lanyon, 5th grader at Ramblewood, comments in support of non-closure of Ramblewood. Mr. Lanyon notes Ramblewood as having the highest academic performance and a strong community.

Elda Romero, parent and staff of Dahl, comments to support non-closure of Dahl. Ms. Romero comments on the safe environment for children. Ms. Romero notes that many students walk to Dahl from all directions through the quiet neighborhood. She notes it is about to become one of two trauma-skilled schools in the entire state, meaning it is specially equipped to serve students with trauma. She notes that Dahl has the SEAL program to support English learners and skilled special education staff.

Carol Dahl Heiderich, sister of Captain Jason M. Dahl and an alumni of Dahl formerly known as Hillsdale, comments in support of non-closure of Dahl. She notes its historical significance in the community. Ms. Dahl Heiderich notes that when the school was renamed in honor of Captain Dahl, the principal at the time spoke of the "home-town boy" who pursued his dreams, a lesson that inspires students.

Emily Wilkins, teacher of Shirakawa, comments to support keeping the K-8 grade range due to the benefits for families who have multiple children with large age gaps who can attend the same school.

Angelica Nunez, teacher at Kennedy, comments to urge the committee not to close Kennedy. Ms. Nunez comments on grandparents, neighbors, or babysitters having to pick up students and the possibility of losing enrollments to surrounding charters.

Monique Jennings, teacher of Los Arboles, and formerly paraeducator at McKinley, comments to support non closure of McKinley due to the high needs of that community. She mentions that some students are attending PK at McKinley, TK at Los Arboles, and first grade at Dahl.

Gabriela Arreguin, parent of Kennedy, comments to support non closure of Kennedy.

Emili Nguyen, 5th grader of Ramblewood, comments to support non closure for Ramblewood. Ms. Nguyen notes that Ramblewood is the highest academic ranking school in the district.

Griseldo Campos, parent of Kennedy, comments to support non-closure of Kennedy. Ms. Campos mentions the social and emotional success of her student at Kennedy.

Matt Shadiow, parent of Ramblewood, comments to support non-closure for Ramblewood. Mr. Shadow mentions the need to focus on school academic performance and quality of education as a primary consideration. His son attended four schools in the district and thrived at Ramblewood.

Maricela Ponce, parent of Kennedy, comments to support non-closure of Kennedy.

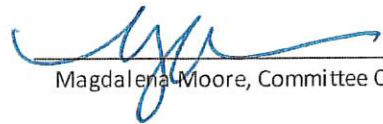
Charmaine Pollack, comments to support non-closure of Dahl. Ms. Pollack shares that her foster students at Dahl receive tremendous support from the school due to the trauma support. She chose to enroll them at Dahl versus a charter school because of the trauma support.

5. ADJOURNMENT 8:22

The meeting adjourns at 8:22 pm.

January 22, 2025

Date of Approval



Magdalena Moore, Committee Chair